

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for screening participant input for content in an interactive show, comprising:
for each participant desiring to provide input:
receiving participant input for a show and subsequently disconnecting a communication with a participant that submitted the participant input;
storing the participant input in a storage location;
automatically processing the stored participant input to determine a relationship of the participant input to the show; ~~and~~
based on the determined relationship, alerting the participant that submitted the participant input if the participant input is selected for the show;
and
reconnecting the communication to receive additional input from the participant whose input is selected for the show.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to receiving the participant input for the show, notifying the participant of an availability of the show to receive the participant input.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the show comprises a television show or a radio show.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying an alert preference of the participant.

5. (canceled).

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein alerting the participant that submitted the participant input includes alerting the participant that subject matter related to another participant's input is to be addressed in the show.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically processing the stored participant input to determine the relationship of the participant input to the show includes:

using a speech recognition technique to convert an audio format of the participant input into a text format; and

performing a keyword search on the text format to classify the participant input relative to the show.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein a human operator selects the participant input for the show.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the participant input is receivable via a communication medium different from a communication medium usable to alert the participant.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein alerting the participant is capable of being done via one of a telephone call, voicemail, facsimile, email, instant message, screen alert, or page.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the participant input is capable of being received via one of a telephone call, voicemail, facsimile, email, instant message, transmission from a web page, page, video transmission, avatar transmission, cable modem transmission, interactive video casting transmission, or wireless transmission.

12. (currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to ~~perform a method comprising: for each participant desiring to provide input:~~

collect participant input submitted for a show, wherein communication with a participant that submitted the participant input is disconnected subsequent to submission of the participant input;

process the stored participant input to determine relevance a relationship of the participant input to the show; and

based on a determination of relevance ~~the determined relationship~~, trigger alert of the participant that submitted the participant input if the participant input is selected for the show.

13. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 12 wherein the machine-readable medium further includes instructions stored thereon to identify an alert preference of the participant.

14. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 12 wherein the instructions to process the stored participant input to determine the relationship of the participant input to the show includes instructions to:

apply speech recognition to convert an audio format of the participant input into a text format; and

perform a keyword search on the text format to classify the participant input relative to the show.

15. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 12 wherein the instructions to collect the participant input submitted for the show includes instructions to correlate the participant input according to predefined criteria.

16. (currently amended) A system for screening participant input for content in an interactive show, comprising:

a server coupleable to a plurality of terminals to receive participant input for a show from each of a plurality of participants desiring to provide input, wherein communication with each participant that submitted the participant input is disconnected subsequent to reception of the participant input;

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

a storage unit to store the participant input received by the server, the participant input stored in the storage unit capable of being automatically processed to determine a relationship of the participant input to the show; and

an alert generator to generate and transmit an alert to a particular participant terminal if, based on the determined relationship, the participant input received from that participant terminal is selected for the show;

wherein the server is further to reconnect the communication to receive additional input from each participant whose input is selected for the show.

17. (original) The system of claim 16, further comprising an interactive video casting network coupleable to provide the show to the participant terminal and to provide the participant input from the participant terminal to the server.

18. (original) The system of claim 16, further comprising another storage unit having speech recognition software to convert an audio format of the participant input into a text format, and having keyword search software to search the text format for a keyword to classify the participant input relative to the show.

19. (original) The system of claim 16, further comprising a monitor coupled to the storage unit to control processing of the participant input stored in the storage unit and to control operation of the server.

20. (original) The system of claim 16 wherein the server is capable to store the received participant input information into the storage unit according to predefined criteria.

21. (new) A method for content screening of participant input in an interactive show, comprising:

establishing communication with a participant to receive input using a first communication medium;

disconnecting communication with the participant after receiving the input;

storing the participant input in a storage location;

in response to the input being selected for the show, alerting the participant that submitted the participant input using a second communication medium, the second communication medium being different from the first communication medium; and

reestablishing communication with the participant to receive additional input.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein second communication medium used to deliver the alert comprises an e-mail message.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY